

layman, and then see to it that the layman comes to it in the second instance. At the present time, the State Board of Health is the body to which town and city governments and public and quasi-public corporations turn for information and advice regarding public hygiene and sanitation. This should always be so. But there are questions which are not sanitation matters, problems before chambers of commerce, boards of trade, corporations conducting enterprises which need medical supervision, or conducting hazardous enterprises in which accidents occur necessitating the employment of surgical services, and so on; the society should so establish itself in relation to these sister corporations that they would turn to it with no question but that that was the natural and first thing to do for information, for advice, for assistance, or for the nomination of suitable men to take up particular functions. The society should so establish itself in the knowledge and regard of every individual that no man would ever think of sending into the sick room of his wife or his children, nor of calling to his own aid, a physician or a surgeon who was not a member of the society and had not its endorsement of his skill and his morals.

Thirty years ago, when I became a member of the society, its annual meeting, the papers read, and the banquet constituted all. And that was enough. The membership was small, its needs were simple and were satisfied without difficulty. These thirty years have seen the development of a relatively most complex organization out of the original simplicity. But while applauding this and emphasizing the importance of the work now done, I insist that it is not enough; I insist that development is imperative, and I affirm that it should be along the lines I have indicated—by gradual advance and successive small alterations, which shall be properly adjusted and anticipated, and announced in advance, until the changes I have indicated have been brought about. It can never be enough that the society shall expend practically a hundred per cent. of its energies on its own membership or for its own membership. It can never be enough that the society shall be seemingly always in opposition to the laity in the legislature and in courts, even though that position of opposition is forced on it by the laity itself. It can never be enough until the society shall be able to live up to the letter and the spirit of that sentence in the announced object, which says: "to enlighten and direct public opinion in regard to the great problems of state medicine, so that the profession shall become more capable and honorable within itself and more useful to the public." It can never be enough until the society shall surely be, so far as medicine is concerned, all things to all men in this State of California.

Forty-fifth Annual Meeting

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

To the President and Members of the House of Delegates: Medical Society State of California. Gentlemen:

As required by the By-Laws, the Secretary herewith presents a statement of the condition of the membership of the Society and, as there was no meeting in 1915, a brief statement of the years 1914 and 1915 is included.

The year 1913 closed with a membership of 2396.

The year 1914 closed with a membership of 2503.

The year 1915 closed with a membership of 2557.

In 1914 there were 27 deaths and 5 resignations.

In 1915 there were 36 deaths and 3 resignations.

It will appear from these figures that there are very few resignations, and that in spite of resignations and deaths the membership has constantly grown.

A word may be added in the nature of a report from the Editor.

The work on the Directory has grown so much that its publication in the latter part of last year was impossible. Owing to the increase of work of all kinds in the office, it has been necessary to add the services of an additional clerk, and this will permit us to more carefully systematize some of the work and probably get the material for the next Directory together in quicker time.

Journal: In the opinion of the Editor, the average quality of the papers in the Journal shows a definite improvement. This is in no way due to the work of the Editor, but is an indication of the fact that our members are producing better and more valuable papers.

The Publication Committee has been at all times of the greatest service to the Editor, and the members of the Committee have cheerfully read and considered a large number of papers. No paper has been rejected or refused publication until after submission to at least one or two of the members of the Committee.

Respectfully submitted.

(Signed) PHILIP MILLS JONES,
Secretary.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

To the Officers and Members of the House of Delegates:

Gentlemen:

Your Council, as required by the By-Laws, presents herewith a report of the affairs of the Society, including its various activities, covering the period of the two years 1914 and 1915.

The financial statement, together with the reports of two firms of certified public accountants for the year 1914, was published in the Journal for November, 1915.

The report of the certified public accountants of the audit of the books and accounts for 1915 appears in the Journal for April, 1916.

Journal: The Journal shows some slight increase in receipts, and the early part of 1916 shows an additional slight increase. It will also show a considerable increase in subscriptions.